IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Tao Chen et al.

Group Art Unit: 2621

Serial No.: 10/581,019

Confirmation No. 6808

Filed: May 30, 2006

For:

PICTURE CODING METHOD,

PICTURE DECODING METHOD, PICTURE CODING APPARATUS,

PICTURE DECODING

APPARATUS, AND PROGRAM

THEREOF

April 5, 2007

Costa Mesa, California 92626

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified application, please enter the following: